

T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

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Six artists and craftsmen from Ohio's Western Reserve region have won awards in the Cleveland Museum of Art's 57th annual juried exhibition, the May Show.

Announcement was made Monday afternoon, November 22, at a preview for the exhibition. The show opens Wednesday, November 24 and will continue through Sunday, January 2, 1977, in the special exhibition galleries on the Museum's first and second floors.

Gerald Kramer, associate professor of art at Cuyahoga Community College, has won the \$1000 Treuhaft award in painting for a large surrealistic work entitled Mindless Little Melodrama. Akron printmaker P. J. Rogers received the \$1000 award in graphics for her beautifully executed etching and aquatint, Tulips.

As has been the case for the past two years, the sculpture prize was split between two artists. Christopher Meyer, who teaches sculpture at the University of Akron, was awarded \$500 for a small, humorous, and superbly cast bronze work entitled Mickey's Last Scene. Robert Wick was also awarded \$500 for his seven-foot-high enigmatic bronze figure, Western Landscape #1. Wick, formerly professor of art at Kent State University, now resides in Fredonia, New York.

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The \$1000 award in crafts went this year to Berea artist Roberta Ann Williamson for Brooch #1, a highly original and handsome piece of jewelry executed in sterling silver, copper, and bronze. Mrs. Williamson recently moved to Berea from Richmond, Virginia, where she taught art at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Recipient of the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship is internationally-known Cleveland enamelist Kenneth F. Bates, who taught design and enameling at the Cleveland Institute of Art from 1927 until his retirement in 1970. His award-winning work is a small and elegant translucent enamel bowl, Luna Vista: Reduction Oxidation Plique-à-jour.

Except for Mrs. Williamson, all of the award winners have exhibited in previous May Shows. Bates has exhibited in the May Show every year since 1927, and has received the Potter Award three times previously -- in 1949, 1957, and 1966.

In addition to the award-winning works, 46 others have been cited by show jurors for special mention. There were 15 special mentions in painting, 6 in graphics, 7 in photography, 5 in sculpture, and 13 in crafts, which includes textiles, ceramics, glass, and jewelry.

Edward Henning, Museum curator of modern art, and Tom Hinson, assistant curator of modern art and coordinator of the May Show, agree that the quality of work in this year's exhibition is on a high, professional level. They observe that many artists who now exhibit in the show also exhibit nationally and internationally.

Both men feel that paintings, crafts, and especially graphics (including photography) are very strong this year. Sculpture, on the other hand, is somewhat disappointing, they say. "While the top pieces are excellent," says Henning,

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"there are too few of them." He notes that fiberworks -- often entered as crafts -- seem to be emerging as an important new material for sculptors, while light and kinetic works are dwindling in number.

The 1976 May Show includes 325 works by 281 artists. Works were selected by jurors made up of members of the Museum's professional staff from 2,698 entries. Last year's show consisted of 317 works selected from 2,825 entries. Installation of this year's show was under the direction of Joseph Finizia of the Museum's design department.

For the length of the exhibition, the May Show galleries will be open on Friday evenings until 10 p.m. (Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve excepted). The Museum is open regularly on Wednesday evenings until 10 p.m.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:30 p.m. on three Wednesdays -- November 24, December 1, and December 29 -- and three Sundays -- November 28, December 5, and January 2. A slide-tape presentation on the history of the May Show, including highlights from this year's show, will be shown each day of the exhibition in the audio-visual center on the Museum's classroom level.

One of the largest and most highly regarded exhibitions of regional art in the country, the Cleveland May Show has been held each year since 1919, excepting 1970 when construction was being completed on the Museum's new educational wing.

This year the May Show was delayed because of Bicentennial exhibitions scheduled at the Museum during the spring and summer. Next year it will be held from July 13 to August 21. This date, although later than normal, has been chosen to give artists at least six months work from which to select their entries.

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